

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Grant

PIN	4096	COUNTY	Yolo
APPLICANT	Water Resources Association of Yolo County	AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$500,000
PROJECT TITLE	Water Resources Association of Yolo County - IRWMP Completion	TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$792,565

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Implement water and resources management activities in the Yolo County region to provide the region with a comprehensive plan for water supply and drought preparedness, water quality of point and non-point sources, storm drainage and flood control, ecosystem enhancement, and recreation.

WORK PLAN - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has a detailed and specific work plan that adequately documents the proposal. Weighting factor is 3.

Score: 12

Comment: The work plan is described in detail. The main tasks all have subtasks and are well defined within the work plan. The IRWMP is scheduled to be adopted by December 2006. Technical memoranda will be provided as deliverables on some of the task, others such as public outreach will have press releases and informational material available. The rate and hours for principal engineer time in the budget appear excessive.

DESCRIPTION OF REGION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented a detailed and specific description that adequately documents the region. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 5

Comment: The regional water resources are described, including the watersheds that impact Yolo County. More detail on the surface water resources could have been provided. The urban regions are defined by population, employment category, housing, and social values. A map showing the agencies involved is included in the application. A chart indicating major land use divisions, agricultural, urban, and open space, is also included.

OBJECTIVES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific planning objectives. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 10

Comment: The IRWMP will build on objectives that were identified as part of the Yolo County Water Plan Update in 1992 and expanded by the Technical Committee, to reflect the broader interest of the applicant today. The goals and objectives will be finalized through a public/stakeholder involvement process. The IRWMP will identify high priority water issues and solutions and include an implementation strategy for five management categories. Specific planning objectives will be vetted through the public process. There are 13 objectives listed in the work plan that include meeting TMDLs and maximizing the extent to which priority projects assist in meeting statewide priorities. Areas potentially affected by IRWMP actions include Colusa basin drain, the Yolo bypass, and the Cache Creek watershed where water quality and ecosystem are high priorities for CBDA.

INTEGRATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented how water management strategies will be integrated. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 10

Comment: The purpose of the proposed IRWMP is to develop water resource management strategies to address issues and opportunities for water supply, water quality, storm drainage and flood control, aquatic and riparian ecosystem enhancement, and recreation for the region. All but one of the water management strategies listed in the guidelines will be considered.

IMPLEMENTATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately detailed plan implementation. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 8

Comment: The applicant is made up of seven member agencies who are urban and agricultural water purveyors and Yolo County and is the entity responsible for developing the IRWMP. IRWMP formulation and implementation is depicted and described in the work items. The work plan acknowledges that implementation will occur by individual agencies and potentially under the auspices of a new institutional structure, such as a JPA. The public process and schedule for developing the IRWMP and a functional organizational chart are displayed. The only deficiency noted is a discussion of performance measures and monitoring of IRWMP impacts and benefits.

IMPACTS AND BENEFITS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately presented and documented the impacts and benefits of the Plan. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 8

Comment: Impacts and benefits of individual projects will be assessed at the regional level rather than at the local level. The proposal indicated that since it is a planning document, it will not need the development of a programmatic EIS/EIR for compliance with NEPA and CEQA. The IRWMP will include a preliminary analysis of appropriate environmental review. The applicant recognizes the need for compliance with CEQA as projects are implemented. The description of impacts and benefits was largely in the context of prioritization of projects and not the IRWMP. The work plan could have described how impacts and benefits, including regional and cumulative, would be monitored and evaluated.

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DATA AND TECHNICAL ANALYSIS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data and technical analysis components of the proposal. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: The IRWMP will rely mostly on existing data. Eleven recent technical studies are listed. The applicant states where deficiencies exist, more data will be gathered, and technical analysis performed. However, the description could have provided more assurance that work will be completed, especially since no specific task is in the work plan.

DATA MANAGEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data management procedures. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 3

Comment: The Water Resources Information Database recently developed by the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (an applicant member agency) will have the flexibility to evolve into a large-scale regional DMS that will store all water and environment related data for the region. Export data tools are proposed for development that will allow data sharing with SWAMP and GAMA. The proposal did not identify the process for gathering and managing data from development and implementation of the IRWMP and disseminating data to stakeholders, agencies, and the public. It is also not clear if the update to the database will be part of the IRWMP, because it is not listed in the work plan. The applicant has an existing web site that will be upgraded to allow for the storage and retrieval of data and completed work products, but it is unclear how it will be accomplished.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented stakeholder involvement concerns. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: The work plan describes a process for stakeholder involvement, public outreach, etc. and acknowledges that there are certain DACs that would require more focused outreach and engagement. It is a task in the work plan. The applicant has defined Yolo County as the region for purposes of the IRWMP. The region may expand in the future for certain projects. Areas potentially affected by IRWMP actions that need more consideration include Colusa basin drain, the Yolo bypass, and the Cache Creek watershed where water quality and ecosystem are high priorities for CBDA. The plan should include participation of stakeholders from these areas to give a more integrated approach to meet CALFED regional integration objectives. How environmental justice issues would be addressed was lacking.

DISADVANTAGE COMMUNITIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented disadvantaged community concerns. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 3

Comment: There are two communities in Yolo County that are considered DACs based on the Guidelines, but there is no documentation to verify this statement. There are other small communities that are considered "disadvantaged" due to failing or deficient infrastructure. There will be an effort to include these communities in the IRWMP planning process. There was no discussion about water quality or supply issues with respect to DACs. The proposal did not indicate what direct benefits, if any, the IRWMP will bring to the DACs.

RELATION TO LOCAL PLANNING - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented the Plan's relationship to local planning efforts. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: County of Yolo is updating its General Plan at the same time the IRWMP is being developed. There is a work plan item that involves integrating the planning of the two resources. The general plans of the cities and other agencies will also be used to help formulate the IRWMP. There is a clear intent to integrate water resources planning with land use planning. The applicant lists many recent planning efforts. However, it is not clear how the integration or incorporation will take place, or if there is any authority to assure it.

AGENCY COORDINATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented agency coordination issues. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 5

Comment: The applicant has already established coordination with various agencies for previous and ongoing projects. The applicant is made up of members representing cities and agencies within Yolo County. The work plan describes the importance of the applicant and agency coordination at the local, State, and federal level. The work plan includes several examples of existing coordinated activities within Yolo County. Project management and coordination are also described in detail. A functional organizational chart was provided.

TOTAL SCORE: 76